

FORM PTO-1390  
(REV. 5-93)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER  
10191/1726

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES  
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)  
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371**

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

09/762793

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.  
PCT/DE00/00376

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE  
8 February 2000  
(8.02.00)

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED:  
09 June 1999  
(09.06.99)

TITLE OF INVENTION  
ELECTRIC MOTOR

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US  
Hans KOBSCHAETZKY

Applicant(s) herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) immediately rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☐ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
  - a. ☐ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
  - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US)
6. ☒ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
  - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
  - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
  - d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)) **UNSIGNED**.
10. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

**Items 11. to 16. below concern other document(s) or information included:**

11. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.  
☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☒ Other items or information: International Search Report, and PCT/RO/101.

Express Mail No.:

EL 302 703226

17. ☒ The following fees are submitted:**Basic National Fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):**

Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... \$860.00

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) .... \$670.00

No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but  
international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) ..... \$760.00Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international  
search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO ..... \$970.00International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all  
claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4) ..... \$96.00

CALCULATIONS | PTO USE ONLY

**ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =** \$ 860Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30 months  
from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)). \$

Claims	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate		
Total Claims	9 - 20 =	0	X \$18.00	\$0	
Independent Claims	2 - 3 =	0	X \$78.00	\$0	
Multiple dependent claim(s) (if applicable)			+ \$260.00	\$	

**TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =** \$860Reduction by 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity statement must  
also be filed. (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28). \$**SUBTOTAL =** \$860Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later the ☐ 20 ☐ 30  
months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)). + \$**TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =** \$860Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be  
accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property + \$**TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =** \$860Amount to be:  
refunded \$  
charged \$

- a. ☐ A check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to cover the above fees is enclosed.
- b. ☒ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 11-0600 in the amount of \$860.00 to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

**NOTE:** Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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NAME

DATE

2/9/01

09/762793

JC02 Rec'd PCT/PTO 09 FEB 2001

[10191/1726]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Hans KOBSCHAETZKY  
Serial No. : To Be Assigned  
Filed : Herewith  
For : ELECTRIC MOTOR  
Examiner : To Be Assigned  
Art Unit : To Be Assigned

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

SIR:

Kindly amend the above-identified application before examination and calculation of the filing fee as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

On page 1, delete lines 1 and 2 and insert:

- Field Of The Invention - .

On page 1, lines 5 and 6, delete "according to the species defined in Claims 1 and 3".

On page 1, before line 8, insert:

- Background Information - .

On page 1, lines 8 and 9, change "known from the German Patent DE 197 27 119 C1" to - described in German Patent No. DE 197 27 119- .

On page 2, delete lines 1 and 2 and insert:

- Summary Of The Invention - .

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On page 2, line 4, delete “, having the features of Claim 1,”.

On page 3, line 7, before “invention” insert - -present- -.

On page 3, line 9, before “the housing” insert - -(fullering)- -.

On page 3, delete lines 26-29.

On page 3, line 30, change “The invention according to claim 4” to  
- -An embodiment of the present invention- -.

On page 3, line 31, before “bearing” insert - -(sliding)- -.

On page 4, line 3, before “invention” insert - -present- -.

On page 4, line 5, after “reforming” insert - -(non-cutting shaping)- -.

On page 4, lines 8 and 9, delete “(Claim 5)”.

On page 4, line 19, change “invention according to Claim 6” to  
- -present invention- -.

On page 4, line 24, before “invention” insert - -present- -.

On page 4, delete lines 31-37 and insert:

- Brief Description Of The Drawings

Figure 1 shows an electric motor according to the present invention in axial section.

Figure 2 shows details of another embodiment of the present invention according to arrow II.

Figure 3 shows details of a further embodiment of the present invention according to arrow III.

Detailed Description- -.

On page 5, delete lines 1-8.

On page 5, line 30, before "invention" insert - -present- -.

On page 7, line 1, change "32" to - -22- -.

On page 7, line 22, before "invention" insert - -present- -.

On page 7, line 23, change "32" to - -26- -.

On page 7, line 34, before "invention" insert - -present- -.

On page 9, delete the first line, and insert:

- -What Is Claimed Is:- - -.

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Delete line 1, and insert:

- - Abstract Of The Disclosure- - -.

Line 3, change "The present invention relates to an" to - -An- - and delete "(10)".

Line 6, delete "(26)" and "(32)".

Line 7, delete "(16, 18)"; "(10)" and "according to".

Line 8, delete "the present invention," and "(26)".

Line 9, delete "(32)".

Line 10, delete "(34, 36)".

Line 11, delete "(26)".

Line 12, delete "(14)" and "(12)".

Line 13, delete "(32)".

Delete line 15.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-6, without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

7. (New) An electric motor comprising:
  - a housing having a bearing seat;
  - an armature shaft; and
  - an armature-shaft bearing situated in the bearing seat of the housing,the armature-shaft bearing being retained axially in the bearing seat by one of a detent and a snap-fit connection.
8. (New) The electric motor according to claim 7, wherein the housing further has a spring tab with one of a detent and a snap projection at a free end.
9. (New) The electric motor according to claim 7, wherein the bearing is a plain bearing.

10. (New) The electric motor according to claim 7, wherein the shaft has a worm and armature windings, the worm being produced by reforming, the bearing being situated on the shaft between the worm and the windings.

11. (New) The electric motor according to claim 7, wherein the housing further has a longitudinal-play stop at one end face of the shaft, the stop being produced by reforming the housing, the stop limiting an axial play of the shaft, the axial play being set to a predetermined value by the reforming of the housing.

12. (New) An electric motor comprising:

a housing having a bearing seat;

an armature shaft; and

an armature-shaft bearing situated in the bearing seat of the housing, the armature-shaft bearing being fixed in position in the bearing seat by a tamping.

13. (New) The electric motor according to claim 12, wherein the bearing is a plain bearing.

14. (New) The electric motor according to claim 12, wherein the shaft has a worm and armature windings, the worm being produced by reforming, the bearing being situated on the shaft between the worm and the windings.

15. (New) The electric motor according to claim 12, wherein the housing further has a longitudinal-play stop at one end face of the shaft, the stop being produced by reforming the housing, the stop limiting an axial play of the shaft, the axial play being set to a predetermined value by the reforming of the housing.

#### **REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment cancels, without prejudice, claims 1-6 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE00/00376, and adds new claims 7-15. The new claims conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and

do not add new matter to the application.

The amendments to the specification and abstract are to conform the specification and abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules, and do not introduce new matter into the application.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE00/00376 includes an International Search Report, dated June 28, 2000, a copy of which is included. The Search Report includes a list of documents that were considered by the Examiner in the underlying PCT application.

Applicant asserts that the present invention is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

By: *Richard L. Mayer*  
Reg No 35,852

Dated: 2/9/01

By: *Richard L. Mayer*  
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349537



1/PRTS

09/762793

JC02 Rec'd PCT/PTO 09 FEB 2001

[10191/1726]

ELECTRIC MOTOR

Background Information

The present invention relates to an electric motor,  
provided in particular as a windshield-wiper motor in a  
motor vehicle, according to the species defined in Claims  
1 and 3.

Such an electric motor is known from the German Patent  
DE 197 27 119 C1. The known electric motor has an  
armature with an armature shaft that is rotationally  
mounted by an armature-shaft bearing on each side of  
armature windings in a housing of the electric motor. The  
housing can also be a transmission housing or the housing  
of another device which is driven by the electric motor  
and is connected with positional accuracy to the electric  
motor. One of the two armature-shaft bearings is a roller  
bearing (ball bearing) whose inner ring is pressed for  
axial fixation onto the armature shaft. An outer ring of  
the armature-shaft bearing is inserted in a bearing seat  
in the housing and is axially secured by a spring washer  
inserted into a groove in the housing. This manner of  
axially securing the armature-shaft bearing in the  
housing of the electric motor has the disadvantage that  
it is costly. Another disadvantage of axially securing  
the armature-shaft bearing in the bearing seat of the  
housing in this manner is that it is not possible when  
the bearing seat is not accessible on the side on which  
the spring washer is inserted into the groove in the  
housing. The axial securing of the armature-shaft bearing  
in the bearing seat of the housing requires an  
installation opening in the housing.

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## Advantages of the Invention

The housing of the electric motor of the present invention, having the features of Claim 1, has a detent or snap-fit connection which retains the armature-shaft bearing axially in the bearing seat with or without play. To assemble, the armature-shaft bearing is introduced axially into the bearing seat until the detent or snap-fit connection engages or snaps into place; the armature-shaft bearing is secured axially in the bearing seat, with or without play, simply by inserting the armature-shaft bearing into the bearing seat without further assembly steps. The armature-shaft bearing is secured axially in the housing of the electric motor quickly, simply and cost-effectively, because the armature-shaft bearing can already be mounted on the armature shaft during the insertion into the bearing seat of the housing, and can be inserted with the armature shaft into the bearing seat of the housing. Another advantage is that the bearing seat does not need to be accessible for inserting the armature-shaft bearing, since the armature-shaft bearing is automatically secured axially in the bearing seat of the housing. In this context, to be understood by a detent connection or snap-fit connection is a connection having a detent or snap element which is pressed elastically to the side when inserting the armature-shaft bearing into the bearing seat, and springs back into its starting position when the armature-shaft bearing has gotten over the detent or snap element, the detent or snap element retaining the armature-shaft bearing axially in the bearing seat by form closure. In the case of a snap-fit connection, when withdrawing the armature-shaft bearing from the bearing seat by sliding the armature-shaft bearing along an inclined plane of the snap element, the snap element is pressed elastically to the side; the snap-fit connection is releasable by withdrawing the armature-shaft bearing from the bearing

5 seat, in that the spring tension of the snap element is overcome. The detent connection is not releasable by the axial withdrawal of the armature-shaft bearing from the bearing seat, since its detent element does not have such an inclined plane.

10 In a further embodiment of the invention, the armature-shaft bearing is fixed in position in the bearing seat by tamping the housing of the electric motor in the region of the bearing seat. An inwardly projecting collar can be produced on the bearing seat by the tamping, the collar retaining the armature-shaft bearing in the bearing seat by form closure. Another possibility is to work housing material into one or more depressions in the periphery of the armature-shaft bearing by tamping, the armature-shaft bearing thereby being fixed in position in the bearing seat by form closure, as well. The armature-shaft bearing can also be jammed in the bearing seat by tamping; thus, a frictionally-engaged connection can be produced by force locking. Fixing the armature-shaft bearing in position by tamping has the advantage that the bearing seat likewise does not have to be accessible, since the tamping can be carried out from an outer side of the electric-motor housing.

25 The dependent claims describe advantageous refinements and further developments of the invention specified in the Main Claim.

30 The invention according to Claim 4 is provided in particular for a plain bearing as an armature-shaft bearing which, unlike a roller bearing - whose inner ring is pressed onto the armature shaft and which consequently is fixed axially on the armature shaft and can be pressed with the armature shaft into the bearing seat - is displacable axially on the armature shaft and therefore cannot be pressed like a roller bearing with the armature

shaft into the bearing seat.

5 The invention is particularly provided for an armature on  
whose armature shaft a worm is integrally applied by  
reforming. The armature-shaft bearing is arranged on the  
armature shaft between the worm and the armature  
windings, a commutator usually being disposed between the  
armature windings and the armature-shaft bearing (Claim  
10 5). If the worm has a larger outside diameter than the  
armature shaft, the armature-shaft bearing must be  
mounted on the armature shaft prior to producing the  
worm, and therefore inserted with the armature shaft into  
the bearing seat in the housing. In such an electric  
motor, the armature seat is usually covered by the  
armature windings, and is therefore not accessible for  
mounting a securing element fixing the armature-shaft  
bearing axially in position in the bearing seat.

15 In a refinement of the invention according to Claim 6,  
the housing has a longitudinal-play stop for the armature  
shaft which is produced by reforming and which limits the  
axial play of the armature shaft. The axial play is set  
by reforming to a designated value which can also be  
20 zero. This refinement of the invention is particularly  
advantageous when the armature shaft is supported with  
plain bearings that do not permit an axial fixation of  
the armature shaft, known from roller bearings, by an  
arrangement of a locating bearing and a floating bearing  
25 or two one-direction thrust bearings.

30 Drawing

In the following, the invention is described more  
precisely in the light of exemplary embodiments. Shown  
35 are:

Figure 1 an electric motor according to the

present invention in axial section;

Figures 2 and 3 details of altered specific  
embodiments of the invention  
according to arrow II, III.

#### Description of the Exemplary Embodiments

Electric motor 10 of the present invention, shown in  
Figure 1, is provided for driving a window washer of a  
motor vehicle via a worm gear (not shown). Electric motor  
10 has an armature 12 with an armature shaft 14 which is  
rotationally mounted in a motor housing 16 (pole pot).  
Flange-mounted co-axially on motor housing 16 is a worm  
housing 18 which is likewise part of the motor housing.

At a bottom 20, pot-type motor housing 16 has a hollow-  
cylindrical formation which forms a bearing seat 22 and  
into which a plain bearing is pressed as armature-shaft  
bearing 24. Armature shaft 14 is rotationally mounted  
with its one end in armature-shaft bearing 24.

On the other side of armature 12, electric motor 10 has a  
further armature-shaft bearing 26 which is likewise  
formed as a plain bearing. This armature-shaft bearing 26  
is rotationally disposed on armature shaft 14 between the  
armature, or more precisely, between a commutator 28 of  
armature 12 and a worm 30 which is in one piece with  
armature shaft 14. Worm 30 is produced by reforming, in  
the exemplary embodiment of the invention described and  
shown, by rolling armature shaft 14 at its one end. Worm  
30 has a larger outside diameter than armature shaft 14  
on its remaining length, so that armature-shaft bearing  
26 must be mounted on armature shaft 14 prior to  
producing worm 30.

Armature-shaft bearing 26 mounted on armature shaft 14,

together with armature shaft 14 upon which the entire armature 12 including commutator 28 is mounted, is inserted into a bearing seat 32 formed as a hollow-cylindrical section of worm housing 18. Armature-shaft bearing 26 is retained axially in bearing seat 32 by one or even a plurality of detent elements 34 distributed over the periphery. Detent element 34 has a spring tab, likewise designated by 34, which laps paraxially over armature-shaft bearing 26 at the periphery, and which has a detent projection 36 at its free end which grips armature-shaft bearing 26 from behind at an end face facing armature 12 and thereby retains it axially in bearing seat 32. When inserting armature-shaft bearing 26 into bearing seat 32, detent element 34 is pressed elastically to the side by armature-shaft bearing 26, as indicated in Figure 1 with dotted lines. After armature-shaft bearing 26 has gotten over detent projection 36 of detent element 34, detent element 34 springs back into its starting position in which detent projection 36 retains armature-shaft bearing 26 axially in bearing seat 32.

To be able to press armature-shaft bearing 26 into bearing seat 32, a spacer sleeve 38 is mounted on armature shaft 14 between commutator 28 and armature-shaft bearing 26. Thus, armature-shaft bearing 26, together with armature 12 upon whose armature shaft 14 it is mounted, is pressed into bearing seat 32 until detent element 34 snaps into place. Therefore, bearing seat 32 does not have to be accessible in order to insert armature-shaft bearing 26. After detent element 34 has snapped into place on armature-shaft bearing 26, armature 12 is withdrawn axially for a short stretch, thus forming an axial clearance between spacer sleeve 38 and armature-shaft bearing 26.

In order to fix armature shaft 14 axially in position in

motor and worm housing 16, 18, bearing seat 32, on the side of armature 12 facing away from commutator 28, has on its end wall an inward formation which forms an axial one-direction thrust bearing 40 for armature shaft 14.

At the opposite end face of armature shaft 14, on which worm 30 is premolded, worm housing 14 has a longitudinal-play stop 42 which fixes armature shaft 14 in motor and worm housing 16, 18 with or without axial play.

Longitudinal-play stop 42 is produced by reforming, e.g. using a stamp die (not shown). Longitudinal-play stop 42 is first produced after armature-shaft bearing 26, disposed between commutator 28 and worm 30, has been inserted into bearing seat 32, so that sufficient free space exists in the axial direction for armature shaft 14 in order to insert armature-shaft bearing 26. The axial play of armature shaft 14 can be set exactly to a designated value, which can also be zero, by longitudinal-play stop 42 which is subsequently produced by reforming.

In the altered specific embodiment of the invention shown in Figure 2, armature-shaft bearing 32, disposed between commutator 28 and worm 30, is fixed axially in position in bearing seat 32 by a circumferential, inward-projecting collar 44. Collar 44 is produced by reforming worm housing 18 after armature-shaft bearing 26 has been inserted into bearing seat 32. Collar 44 can be formed circumferentially, e.g., using pressure roller 46 indicated with dotted lines. Instead of a circumferential collar 44, reforming can also be carried out at only one or several locations on the periphery of bearing seat 32.

In the altered specific embodiment of the invention shown in Figure 3, armature-shaft bearing 26, disposed between commutator 28 and worm 30, has depressions 48 at its outer surface. Material 50 of bearing seat 32 is worked

into these depressions 48, e.g., using stamp 52 indicated  
in Figure 3 with dotted lines, and armature-shaft bearing  
26 is thereby fixed axially in position in bearing seat  
32. Since stamp 52 in Figure 3, as well as pressure  
roller 46 in Figure 2, are applied from the outside,  
bearing seat 32 does not have to be accessible in order  
to insert and fix armature-shaft bearing 26 in position.  
The reforming of bearing seat 32 in order to fix  
armature-shaft bearing 26 axially in position, as well as  
the reforming of longitudinal-play stop 42 can, for  
example, be effected thermally by ultrasonics, by cold-  
forming or the like.



## Patent Claims

1. An electric motor having a housing, having an armature shaft and having an armature-shaft bearing which is accommodated in a bearing seat of the housing, characterized in that the armature-shaft bearing (26) is retained axially in bearing seat (32) by a detent or snap-fit connection (34, 36).
2. The electric motor as recited in Claim 1, characterized in that the housing (16, 18) has a spring tab (34) with a detent or snap projection (36) at its free end.
3. An electric motor having a housing, having an armature shaft and having an armature-shaft bearing which is accommodated in a bearing seat of the housing, characterized in that the armature-shaft bearing (26) is fixed in position in bearing seat (32) by a tamping (44, 50).
4. The electric motor as recited in Claim 1 or 3, characterized in that the armature-shaft bearing (26) is a plain bearing.
5. The electric motor as recited in Claim 1 or 3, characterized in that the armature shaft (14) has a worm (30), produced by reforming, and armature windings (12), and that the armature-shaft bearing (26) is disposed on the armature shaft (14) between the worm (30) and the armature windings (12).
6. The electric motor as recited in Claim 1 or 3, characterized in that the housing (16, 18) has a longitudinal-play stop (42), produced by reforming the housing (16, 18), at one end face of the armature shaft (14), which limits the axial play of the armature shaft

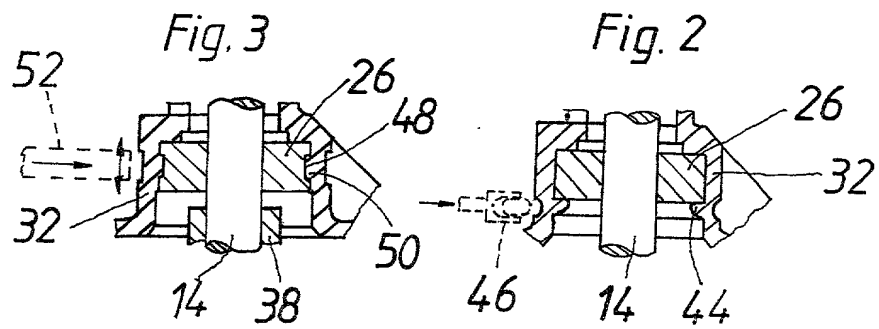
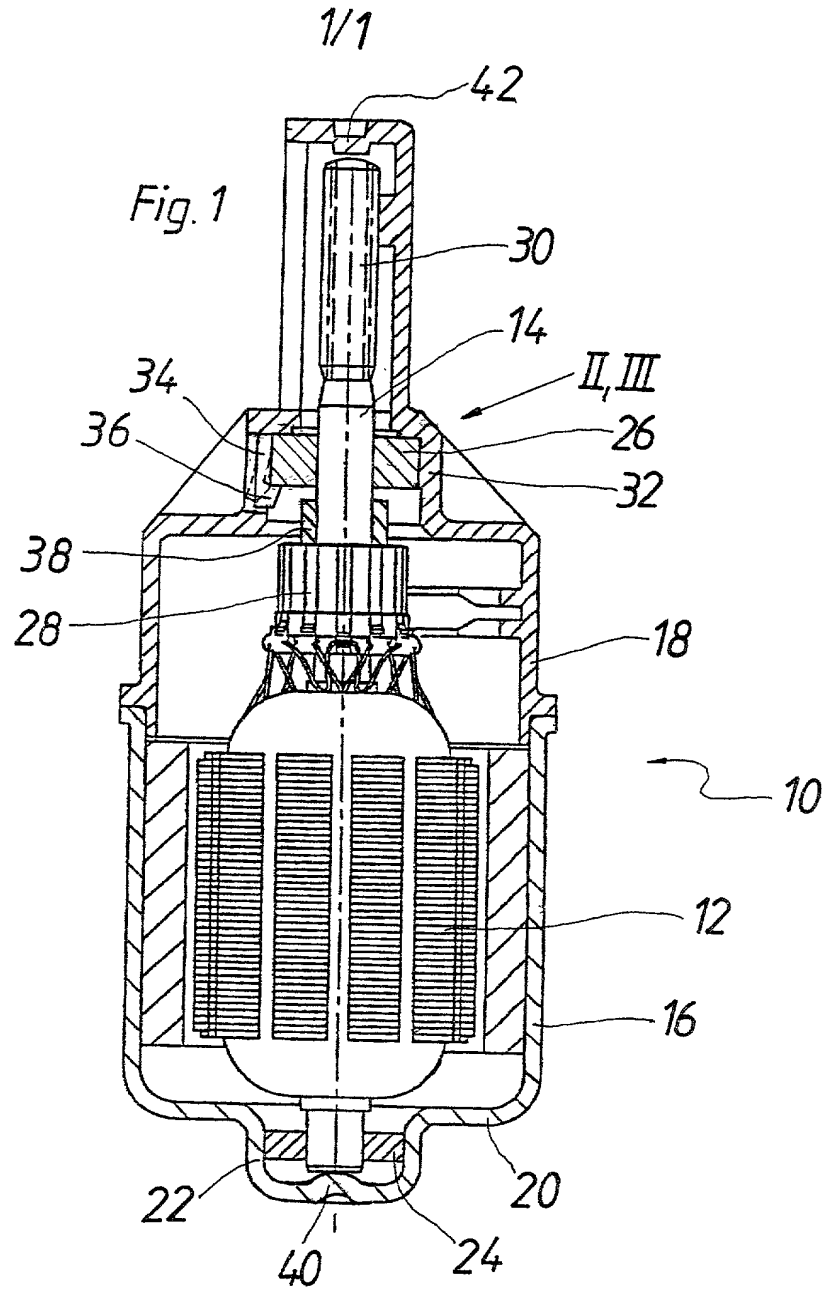
(14), and that the axial play is set to a designated value by the reforming of the housing (16, 18).

NY 348056 v 1

## Abstract

The present invention relates to an electric motor (10), particularly a windshield-wiper motor for a motor vehicle. In order to be able to insert an armature-shaft bearing (26) into an inaccessible bearing seat (32) in a housing (16, 18) of the electric motor (10), according to the present invention, the armature-shaft bearing (26) is fixed axially in position in the bearing seat (32) by a detent element (34, 36). This makes it possible to insert the armature-shaft bearing (26), mounted on the armature shaft (14), together with the armature (12) into the bearing seat (32).

(Figure 1)



**COMBINED DECLARATION AND  
POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below adjacent to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **ELECTRIC MOTOR**, and the specification of which:

- ☐ is attached hereto;
- ☐ was filed as United States Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and was amended by the Preliminary Amendment filed on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☒ was filed as PCT International Application Number PCT/DE00/00376 the 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2000.
- ☒ an English translation of which is filed herewith.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a). I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international applications(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

EL30270373968

**PRIOR FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATION(S)  
AND ANY PRIORITY CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 119**

Country : Germany

Application No. : 199 26 171.7

Date of Filing: June 9, 1999

Priority Claimed

Under 35 U.S.C. § 119 : ☒ Yes    ☐ No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 120 of any United States Application or PCT International Application designating the United States of America that is/are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in that/those prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

**PRIOR U.S. APPLICATIONS OR  
PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS  
DESIGNATING THE U.S. FOR BENEFIT UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 120**

**U.S. APPLICATIONS**

Number :

Filing Date :

**PCT APPLICATIONS  
DESIGNATING THE U.S.**

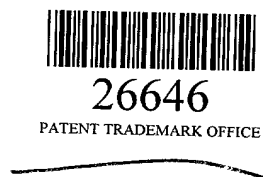
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I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agents to prosecute the above-identified application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

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Inventor's signature [Signature] Date 26.2.07

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